

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 082495  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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APPROVED BY AF:DBBOLEN

S/S - MR. BRIDGES(S/S 7709880)

-----131116Z 049222 /12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082495

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IV

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-  
BOIGNY

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER  
TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, DATED APRIL 11.

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL LETTER OF MARCH 12 ABOUT THE  
SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. VICE PRESIDENT  
MONDALE WAS DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE YOUR AMBASSADOR, WHO  
DELIVERED THE LETTER, AND I GREATLY VALUE THE OPPORTUNITY  
TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH YOU ON THESE PROBLEMS.

I FOUND MOST INTERESTING YOUR VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST  
SITUATION, BASED ON YOUR RECENT CONTACTS WITH ISRAEL AND  
ARAB LEADERS. I WELCOME YOUR PERSISTENT EFFORTS TO FACIL-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 082495

ITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS. WE SHARE

YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT THE SITUATION TODAY IS MORE PROPITIOUS  
THAN EVER BEFORE FOR PROGRESS TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING  
PEACE AND THAT THE DECLINE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE  
REGION, WHICH HAS HELPED REMOVE THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT  
FROM EAST-WEST RIVALRIES, IS A POSITIVE FACTOR. I ALSO

AGREE THAT, WHILE PROSPECTS FOR ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE DO EXIST, THEY ARE DARKENED BY MISTRUST.

THE UNITED STATES IS WORKING TO BRING THE PARTIES TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT TOGETHER SO THAT THEY CAN NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES. THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER IN MARCH, LIKE THE VISIT OF THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT THIS MONTH, HAS OFFERED ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME ACQUAINTED PERSONALLY WITH THE LEADERS WHOSE GOVERNMENTS MUST MAKE THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS THAT WE HOPE WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO LAUNCH MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS AT GENEVA LATER THIS YEAR. IT HAS ALSO PERMITTED ME TO HEAR FIRSTHAND THE DETAILED VIEWS OF THE PARTIES TO THE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE. MY ADMINISTRATION FROM ITS VERY FIRST DAYS HAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED ITS DETERMINATION TO WORK TOWARD THE COMMENCEMENT OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS IN 1977.

FOLLOWING THE VISITS OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT, I EXPECT TO MEET THIS SPRING WITH THE KING OF JORDAN, THE PRESIDENT OF SYRIA, AND THE SAUDI CROWN PRINCE. ISRAEL WILL HOLD ITS NATIONAL ELECTION MAY 17 AND IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER START FORMING A NEW GOVERNMENT. WHATEVER THE ELECTION OUTCOME, WE BELIEVE ISRAEL WILL BE READY AND WILLING TO START SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IN THE MEANTIME THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS ARE SERIOUSLY EXAMINING THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT A RENEWED GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. THIS IS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO NEGOTIATIONS, AND AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS ONE. THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SESSION IN CAIRO OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL DID NOT RESULT IN A CHANGE IN PLO POSITIONS CONCERNING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND THUS DID NOT MOVE THE SITUATION CLOSER TO A SOLUTION. WE HOPE THAT EVOLUTION TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE WILL CONTINUE IN THE ARAB WORLD. THE U.S. HAS NO EASY ANSWERS TO THIS ISSUE.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 082495

SENTATION AT A RENEWED GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. THIS IS THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO NEGOTIATIONS, AND AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS ONE. THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SESSION IN CAIRO OF THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL DID NOT RESULT IN A CHANGE IN PLO POSITIONS CONCERNING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND THUS DID NOT MOVE THE SITUATION CLOSER TO A SOLUTION. WE HOPE THAT EVOLUTION TOWARD A SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE WILL CONTINUE IN THE ARAB WORLD. THE U.S. HAS NO EASY ANSWERS TO THIS ISSUE.

IN CONCLUSION: THE UNITED STATES HOLDS THAT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS ATTAINABLE AND THAT IT MUST COME ABOUT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES THEMSELVES. WE WILL SPARE NO EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT SUCH NEGOTIATIONS GET UNDER WAY THIS YEAR.

WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION IN AFRICA, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SCALE OF SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITY IN AFRICA AND ABOUT THEIR LONG-TERM PURPOSE. WE FIND THE RECENT IN-

CURSION AGAINST ZAIRE FROM ANGOLA A PARTICULARLY DISTURBING DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE RESPONDED TO ZAIRIAN REQUESTS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN A MEASURED WAY. THROUGH THIS RESPONSE WE INTEND TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE, AND OUR DESIRE TO HELP STABILIZE THE SITUATION, ALLOWING TIME FOR DIPLOMATIC MOVES TO TAKE EFFECT. AS YOU KNOW, THE NIGERIANS HAVE OFFERED TO ASSIST WITH MEDIATION BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE. WE WELCOME THESE EFFORTS AND HOPE THEY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. WE WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY WAY IN WHICH YOU CAN USE YOUR GREAT PRESTIGE TO PROMOTE A SETTLEMENT.

TURNING TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT I SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT DIFFERENCES AMONG THE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS WILL LEAD TO GREATER VIOLENCE AND A RISK OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION. I AM CONSCIOUS OF THE DANGERS THIS WOULD POSE NOT ONLY FOR AFRICA BUT FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 082495

EUROPE AND THE ENTIRE WORLD. I AM EQUALLY AWARE OF THE NEED TO FIND SOLUTIONS FOR THE PROBLEMS OF NAMIBIA AND OF SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF, WHICH YOU SO ELOQUENTLY OUTLINED IN YOUR LETTER. WE, TOO, WOULD PREFER THAT THESE PROBLEMS BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN FORCE.

WE WILL NOT RELAX OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS. WE FULLY SUPPORT THE BRITISH EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA, INCLUDING THE TRIP TO AFRICA BY FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN. WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH EUROPEAN AS WELL AS AFRICAN COUNTRIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AND WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO SEEK WAYS IN WHICH THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. IN CONCERT WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL WE WILL SHORTLY APPROACH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AGAIN AND URGE IT TO PURSUE A SETTLEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385.

AT THE SAME TIME, I AM SENSITIVE TO THE URGENT NEED FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR SUCH CHANGE. WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR EFFORTS LEAD TO A PEACEFUL TRANSFORMATION AND DO NOT AGGRAVATE AN ALREADY DIFFICULT SITUATION. I COUNT ON OUR GOVERNMENTS STAYING IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION AS OUR POLICIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA EVOLVE. SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. UNQTE

PRESIDENT CARTER ADDED HAND WRITTEN NOTE QUOTE: BEST PERSONAL WISHES TO YOU - J. C. UNQUOTE.

2. COPY OF PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S INCOMING LETTER

WAS POUCHED TO POST ON APRIL 6.

3. SIGNED ORIGINAL OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER BEING  
POUCHED TO POST.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 082495

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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